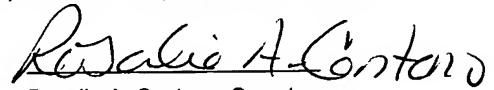


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Rosalie A. Centeno, Secretary

In the Application of Thomas Kern et al

Ser.No.: Not Yet Known (Based on PCT/EP03/013386 filed November 28, 2003 and DE 102 59 378.7 filed December 18, 2002)

For: A METHOD AND DEVICE FOR EXTRACTING A PLATE FROM AND FOR INSERTING A PLATE INTO A STACK OF PLATES FROM BELOW

Filed on: June 10, 2005

Customer Number: 30996

Commissioner of Patents

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION

Sir:
Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified National Stage PCT application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begins on page 3

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.